

## Editorial

### **Welcoming the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of *Journal of American Studies of Turkey***

This 63<sup>rd</sup> issue of *Journal of American Studies of Turkey* (JAST) marks our journal's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The first editorial of JAST in the 1995 Spring issue reflected our late professors' dedication to their field with great joy and enthusiasm. The editors in the first issue wrote, "The issue you have in your hands has been the cherished dream of many in the Association of American Studies of Turkey, and we are happy to have at last realized it" (1). Thirty years ago, JAST was born from a conviction that American Studies in our country needed a space committed to interdisciplinary critique, cultural inquiry, and a reconsideration of narratives. JAST has positioned itself as more than just an academic repository since its inception; it has served as a platform for up-and-coming voices and functioned as a debate crucible. Following the opening of American Studies to critical race theory, gender studies, and transnational frameworks, JAST came into being with a focus on burgeoning critical inquiry and acted as both a witness and an interlocutor as the field questioned the very concept of the United States of America within various contexts.

As we celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of *Journal of American Studies of Turkey*, we are pondering back on both the journal's past and the evolving landscape of American Studies in general. Hundreds of articles we have published have made significant contributions to the field, and our contributors have reimagined the boundaries of American identity, questioned the colonial legacies of US imperialism and the limits of American exceptionalism over the course of three decades. The diverse and dynamic commitments of the field are demonstrated by the articles, which have drawn from Indigenous studies, African American studies, Chicano/a studies, Asian American studies, cultural studies, media studies, history, politics, ecocriticism, and more. Since 1995, JAST has aimed to become an original voice in American Studies, reaching from Turkey to the world. Today, it stands as a prominent interdisciplinary publication addressing a broad academic community.

We pause at this milestone to renew our editorial mission rather than to celebrate in a static manner. In recent years, we have revitalized our book and film review section, further diversifying our content. Looking ahead, we aim to expand this platform by introducing short commentaries and blog-style content on our website. The blog, in particular, will serve as a space open to student contributions, fostering earlier and more direct engagement with the future professionals of American Studies. This is part of our broader effort to bring new features and innovative approaches to the journal. We also plan to occasionally highlight notable past articles on our website to further showcase JAST's rich legacy. With this issue, JAST also introduces a new visual design. This refreshed look reflects our commitment to renewal and progress. As part of this momentous issue, we are

also proud to feature reflections by former editors—since this thirty-year journey has been shaped by their vision and devotion.

This issue is dedicated to the papers presented at the 2024 American Studies Association of Turkey (ASAT) conference held in İzmir between October 23 and 25. Our conference stood out with its dynamic panels, broad participation, and timely discussions that shed light on current debates in the field. It was a memorable gathering that truly demonstrated the strength of academic exchange, and we hope to hold many others in the future. The essays in this anniversary issue hint at the journal's future while reflecting the thematic and methodological diversity of its history. They draw on profound historical continuities to provide insightful analyses of both past and current contemplations.

In a time when humanities and social sciences are increasingly constrained by structural challenges, *JAST*'s continued publication for three decades is an achievement in itself. Drawing strength from its history, *JAST* will carry this effort into the future with the same spirit of resilience and clarity. On this occasion, we would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who has been part of this journey—our dedicated editors, our meticulous reviewers, our contributors who enriched the journal with their research and ideas, our ever-supportive readers, and our advisory board members. We wholeheartedly thank you all for guiding the journal's development. Your efforts, ideas, and vision have helped to build this journal and rendered American Studies vibrant in Turkey.

Long live *JAST*— Happy 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary! Here's to many more years—

Nisa Harika Güzel Köşker

Tarık Tansu Yiğit

Duygu Beste Başer Özcan

Cem Kılıçarslan

Gül Varlı Karaarslan

#### Work Cited

"Editorial." *Journal of American Studies of Turkey*, no. 1, 1995, pp. 1-2.